



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



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ASMFC HEARING ON ADDENDUM XI TO SCUP FMP
Massachusetts to host hearing on January 13, 2004

On Tuesday, January 13 *Marine Fisheries* will host a public hearing to discuss Addendum XI to the Scup Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Massachusetts meeting will take place at 7PM on Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at the Holiday Inn – Fairhaven (110 Middle St., Fairhaven, MA). For further information on the meeting contact Melanie Griffin at (617) 626-1528. Below are details on the ASMFC approved draft Addendum as noted in a recent ASMFC press release.

The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board has approved Draft Addendum XI for public comment. The Draft Addendum provides the states with a set of management options for the 2004 scup recreational fishery. These include regional or state-specific management programs for the scup recreational fishery; options for developing mode-specific approaches (i.e., separate management programs for the private anglers and the charter/party boat sector); and the management process establishing conservation equivalency.

Addendum IX addressed the 2003 recreational fishery, establishing a combination of state-specific and regional regulations. This document expired at the end of 2003, necessitating the development of a new mechanism for managing the recreational scup fishery in 2004. The Management Board will meet on January 20, 2004 to review any public comment and take final action on the addendum.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council manage scup jointly. The Commission and Council meet each year to establish a commercial quota and recreational harvest limit. Recreational management measures include a combination of bag/size limits and seasonal closures to ensure that the recreational harvest limit is not exceeded. The ASMFC actions regarding Addendum XI are taken exclusively under the states' management authority.

Copies of the Draft Addendum will be available December 24 and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202)289-6400 or via the website at www.asmfc.org under Public Input or Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until January 16, 2004 and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) or tkerns@asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at (202)289-6400, ext. 330.